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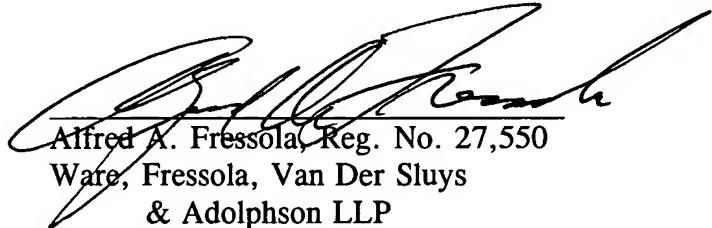
Remarks

This preliminary amendment is filed for the purpose of placing the application into standard U.S. format and to correct any grammatical errors. Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 11-16, 19-22 and 25-26 have been amended. Consideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10 has been amended as follows:

In case of an active i.e. ongoing connection, one of the features that should [to] be relocated is the state of a protocol termination point. Although it is not always necessary, in a usual case the status of the protocol termination point at the new "replacing" network element or node should be such that it may take over the functions of the old "replaced" network node. At the present the parameters which need to be transferred have to be defined also in the protocols which are used to convey the information from the old termination point to the new termination point. For example, if parameters of a Radio Resource Control (RRC) or Medium Access Control (MAC) or Radio Link Control (RLC) protocols are to be relocated in a system that would use radio network subsystem application part (RNSAP) for communication between the network controller nodes, this would mean that a lot of "external" parameters would have to be defined for the RNSAP. This would increase the complexity of the RNSAP. In addition, if several additional parameters of a protocol are to be defined for [the] another protocol, it makes these two different protocols very dependent on each other. The independent evolution of them would thus become more difficult to manage.

Paragraph beginning at page 16, line 9 has been amended as follows:

915-003.5

According to a further embodiment the initialization is a bi-directional process. In other words, instead of only transmitting information from the first network element (node) to the second element, the new network element may send a [respond] response to the first element or accomplish a transmission to a further network element. The [respond] response may include a message such as "unable to initialize", "overload", "all parameters not received" and so on. Upon receiving the response, the first network element may modify its state and/or take some other actions towards the new termination point. For example, transmit modified parameter or parameters, or use a different transmission route, or try to relocate the connection to another network element.

Paragraph beginning at page 16, line 31 through page 17, line 4 has been amended as follows:

There are also other possible reasons for initiating the relocation procedure [that] other than movement of the mobile station into a new service area. For example, the network element in question may become overloaded or a failure in the system of the network element itself may force the system to relocate at least a part of the functionalities[.]; for purposes of network optimization[.]; for purposes of load balancing, and so on.

In the Claims:

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the

915-003.5

second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is encapsulated in a message transmitted between the first termination point and the second termination point by the second protocol.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transparent for the second protocol.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted via a third network element between the termination points.

9. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted by a direct connection between the termination points.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the predefined information of the first protocol comprise one or several parameters

915-003.5

of a radio resource control protocol (RRC), medium access control protocol (MAC), radio link control protocol (RLC), and/or packet data convergence protocol (PDCP).

12. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

13. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, comprising steps of:

defining at least one further protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of a further protocol by the further protocol; and

transferring the further protocol initialization unit from the first termination point to the second termination point.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the further protocol initialization unit is transferred between the termination points by a protocol that is different [to] from the second protocol.

15. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein at least one of the termination points is located at one of the following: a base station controller, a radio network controller, a base station, a gateway.

915-003.5

16. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the step of initializing the second termination point comprises setting the parameters of the second termination point into a state that is similar to the parameters of the first termination point before or at the time the relocation procedure was initiated.

19. (Amended) A communication system according to claim 17 [or claim 18], wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point to the second termination point.

20. (Amended) A communication system according to [any of claims 17 to 19] claim 17, wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the control means for relocating are arranged in connection with the first network element.

21. (Amended) A communication system according to [any of claims 17 to 20] claim 17, wherein the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system and the control means for initializing are arranged in connection with the second network element.

915-003.5

22. (Amended) A communication system according to [any of the claims 17 to 21] claim 17, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

25. (Amended) A network element according to claim 23 [or claim 24], wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

26. (Amended) A network element according to [any of claims 23 to 25]. claim 23, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.